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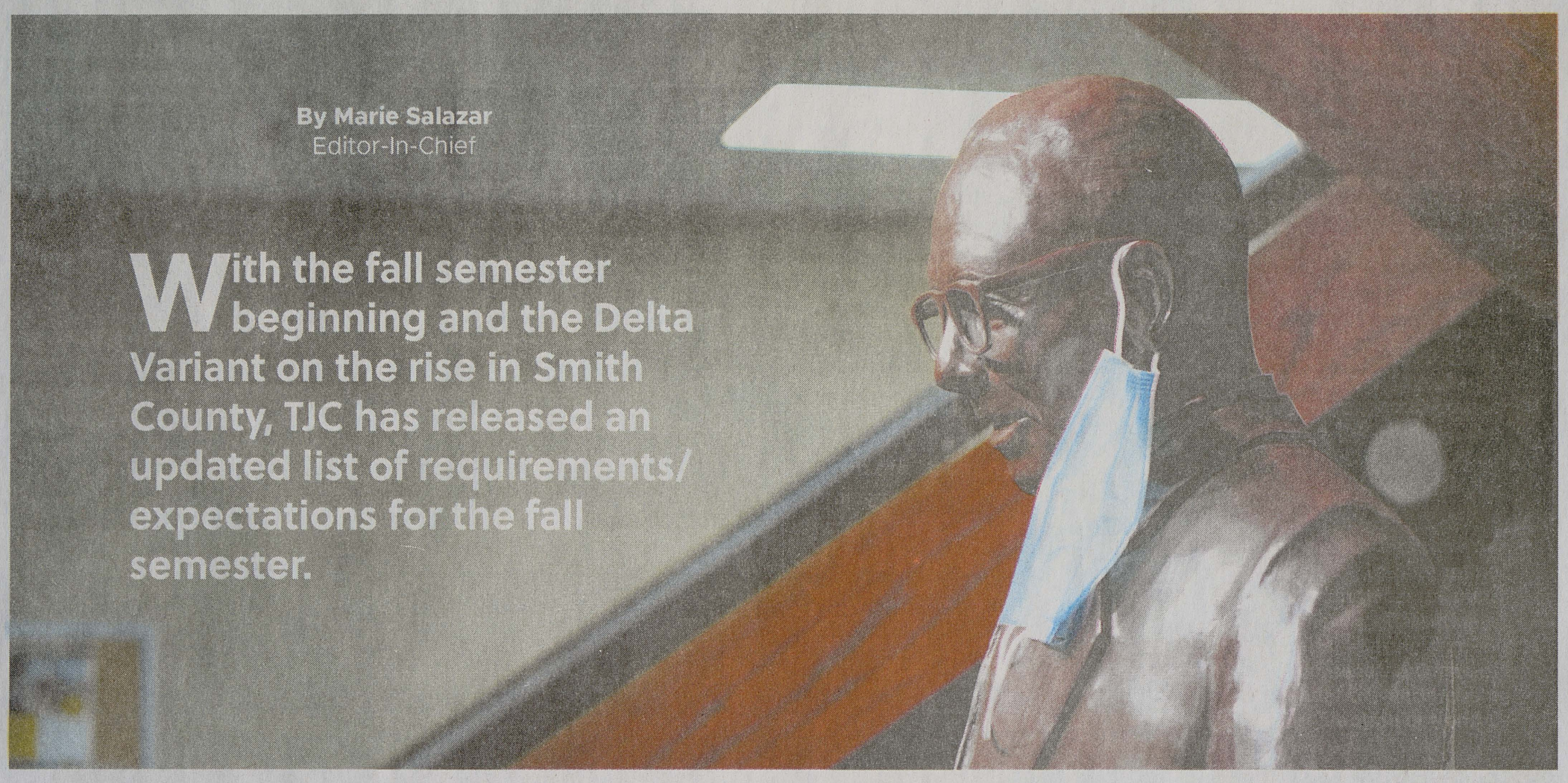
# The DrumBeat

Tyler Junior College's independent student media since 1927

Vol. 90 - Issue 1 August 23, 2021


# TJC's COVID Guidelines Unmasked



By Marie Salazar
Editor-In-Chief

**With the fall semester beginning and the Delta Variant on the rise in Smith County, TJC has released an updated list of requirements/ expectations for the fall semester.**

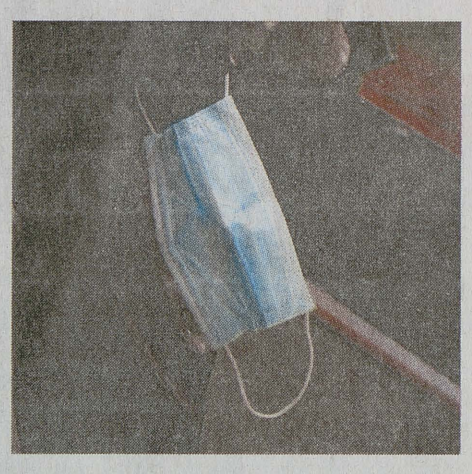
Photos by Chris Swann

## 1. Masks

TJC does not require face masks on campus. However, according to TJC.edu, "All students, employees and visitors are strongly encouraged to wear a face-covering."

On July 29 Gov. Greg Abbott issued Executive Order No. GA-38 stating, "No governmental entity, including a county, city, school district, and public health authority, and no governmental official may require any person to wear a face covering or to mandate that another person wear a face covering."

Like many other schools, TJC has decided to follow Abbott's executive order by not requiring the use of facial coverings. Comparatively, other East Texas schools not requiring face coverings include, UT Tyler, Trinity Valley Community College and Kilgore College.

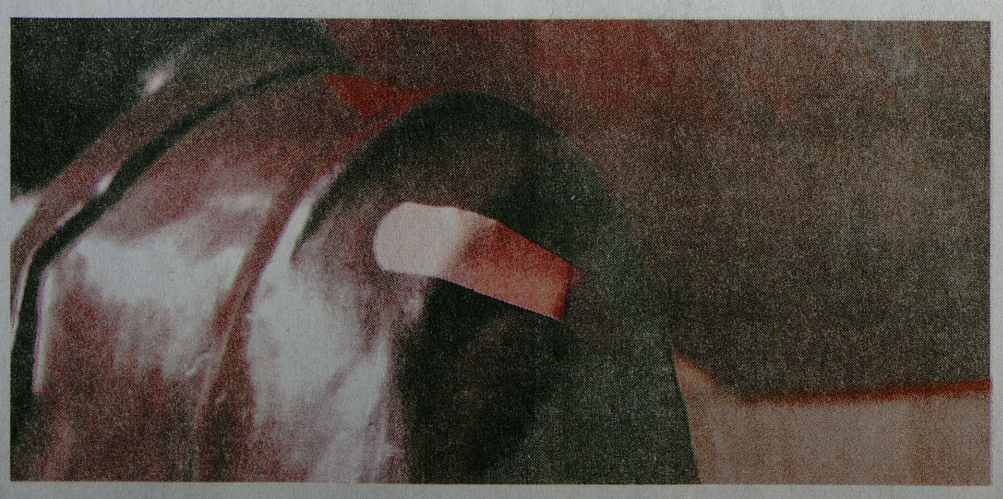


## 2. COVID Vaccination

TJC will not require students to receive the COVID Vaccination or show proof of COVID vaccination. "Proof of (COVID) vaccination is not required, which is in line with the governor's orders," Dr. Deana Sheppard, provost and vice president for academic and student affairs said. According to Usafacts.org, As of Aug 19, 55.26% of Smith County's total population has received one dose of the COVID vaccine. 45.71% of Smith County's total population is fully vaccinated.

To find a list of vaccination locations visit vaccines.gov.

For more information regarding COVID-19 updates, visit tjc.edu/coronavirus.

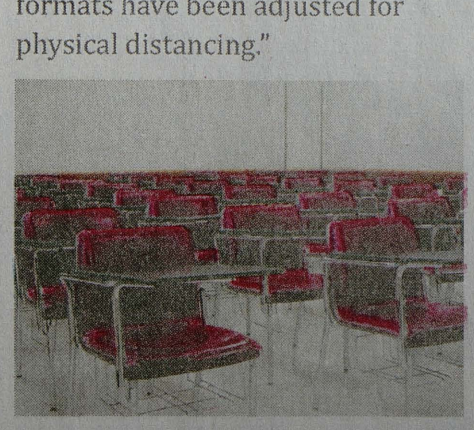


## 3. Social Gatherings

For many students, gatherings at TJC is an important factor in their college experience. The fall 2021 TJC policy states all spaces not being used for instructional purposes are limited to a 75% capacity. However, there will not be any restrictions for outdoor events. In correlation to students remaining socially distanced, Sheppard discussed why physical distancing remains important. "Physical distancing is encouraged to help reduce the risk of spreading contagious diseases," Sheppard said.

## 4. Class sizes

Since the 2020 fall semester, the amount of students permitted in an instructional space for this fall has increased. Sheppard said, "Instructional spaces have increased to higher density since last academic year, but physical distancing is advocated where possible." In the fall 2020 semester, classes had been specifically arranged to maintain the six-foot separation among students and professors. According to an article written by TJC.edu at that time, "classrooms, student services and campus dining operations and formats have been adjusted for physical distancing."



## Tested Positive?

**1**

Stay home. Don't visit any TJC facility.

**2**

Contact professors if unable to attend class; work with them on finishing coursework.

**3**

If you think you are sick with COVID-19, don't go to the Campus Clinic. A process is set up at the UT Health Clinic at 5th Street and Beckham for TJC students with respiratory issues and possibly COVID. Call 903-596-3918 to make an appointment and ID yourself as a TJC student.

**4**

If your health care provider requires you to quarantine, don't return to campus until completing quarantine. Residential housing students must contact the Office of Residential Life and Housing for quarantine options.

**5**

For any long-term absence due to illness, contact the Dean of Students office for guidance.

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**2.** Community Service **3.** Leadership training

**4.** Fellowship **5.** Free food/travel

**MONDAY, AUG. 23**
PTK Fall 2021 Kickoff Meeting – 5 p.m.
Medlock-Murphy Tennis Center - 2nd floor

**MONDAY, AUG. 30**
PTK Leadership meeting – 5 p.m.
Pirtle Technology Center - 2nd floor
+ T-shirts for all going to the Grill n Chill at 6 p.m.

**MONDAY, SEPT. 13**
2021 - 2022 PTK Officer Election

**www.ptk.org**
Alpha Omnicron Phi Theta Kappa

Winning gameplan:

1. Join Apache Chiefs
2. Make new friends
3. Grow as a leader

APACHE CHIEFS TJC

## Let's Talk About Chiefs!

**August 26th - 6 PM**
*TJC Welcome Center*
**September 1st - 11 AM**
*Involvement Fair*
**September 7th - 5:30 PM**
*TJC Welcome Center*

**www.tjc.edu/chiefs**
**@TJCApacheChiefs**

# COVID Relief

## Over 500k granted to TJC students

**By Asia Johnson**
Managing Editor

According to the American Rescue Plan Act Higher Education Relief Fund Three Student Grant Report, Tyler Junior College received additional funding for students in need of emergency funds due to COVID-19. The ARP issued an amount of over $13 million for grants to students' cost of tuition, housing, food, etc. The amount of $509,900 has been distributed to 342 students as of Aug. 5, 2021. Over 9,500 students have been estimated to be eligible for this grant during the 21-22 school year.

To receive this grant, students must complete the TJC HEERF III application for qualification. Award amounts will be determined based on the four priority tiers below.

- Tier 1: $1200 + $500 Pell bonus if student's EFC falls within the ED specified range
- Tier 2: $1000 + $500 Pell bonus if student's EFC falls within the ED specified range
- Tier 3: $800 + $500 Pell bonus if student's EFC falls within the ED specified range
- Tier 4: Amount awarded will be equivalent to what was given to other students in the same term

So what criteria is used to determine eligibility? Manager of scholarships and Rusk TJC Citizens Promise, Megan Burns said, "We look at their financial aid, we look at their enrollment, and their grades. We look at what they submit about themselves and what they're seeking assistance for so we read that and try to see what situation they're in and then also we look at the select things they can benefit from."

TJC's COVID Relief Grant has already been much aid to many students. Freshman Kinsey Ponder said, "I got $1,500. It's covered more than half my tuition as a full time student so I won't have a lot of student loans. I couldn't work when I had it but more importantly COVID shut down my mom's job she had for years."

In the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act Report of July 31, 2021, TJC was issued over $3 million which was distributed to 2,466 students. Approximately $6 million had also been given to 3,540 students in the form of the TJC COVID Relief Grant. The CRSSA funds are fully expended.

| | Registered for Fall '21 | Took courses at TJC during COVID-era | Took college courses elsewhere during COVID-era or Dual Credit at TJC | Did not take courses at TJC during COVID-era |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tier 1 | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Tier 2 | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Tier 3 | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| Tier 4 | | ✓ | | |

Graphic by Asia Johnson

**This graphic illustrates the priority tiers for the Higher Education Relief Fund. It demonstrates the requirements for each level of funding.**

## SBDC Distributes Funds to Local Small Businesses

**By Asia Johnson**

**Managing Editor**

The TJC West Campus' Small Business Development Center was given a CARES Grant in summer 2020, which was used to help East Texas small businesses that have faced economic hardships due to COVID-19. The SBDC works through Economic Development Councils and Chambers of Commerce in their six-county area, which includes Smith, Cherokee, Wood, San Augustine, Shelby and Sabine, according to the SBDC brochure.

This opportunity allowed SBDC Director Don Proudfoot to hire three new business advisers to put this grant into motion. The new hires are Josh Edinger, David Stewart and Stacie Campanile.

SBDC Training Coordinator Sharon Thayer said, "The permanent business advisers do exactly what our Cares Act Grant advisers have been doing and more."

People come to Tyler SBDC in all stages of developing their businesses. "From the start-up phase and writing a business plan, to financing, to growing pains — all the way to developing an exit strategy. The SBDC goals are to help our communities grow through new businesses that stimulate the local economy and provide more jobs for our residents," Thayer said.

The SBDC provides a variety of tools to help small businesses in East Texas.

"We have been able to provide training seminars and one-on-one counseling throughout the year," Thayer said. "We have helped small businesses with operations, marketing, bookkeeping and accounting, Zoom skills, access to capital, website building and much more. Surprisingly, there are many new businesses despite the hardships of COVID, that we have helped to take the first steps of their business adventure."

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act was signed into law March 27, 2020, providing financial relief to individuals and businesses affected by COVID-19. The CARES Act made short-term changes to two notable loan programs administered by the Small Business Administration during the COVID-19 pandemic, which are the Paycheck Protection Program and The Economic Injury Disaster Loan. These changes help protect small businesses and their employees economically.

The PPP is designed to encourage small businesses to retain employees through the COVID-19 crisis. The program extends the SBA's 7(a) loan program to provide up to $659 billion in partial or fully forgivable loans to eligible small businesses.

The EIDL provides working capital loans to small businesses suffering major economic hurt from the pandemic crisis. It will provide low interest loans to pay payroll and certain operating costs and liabilities from Jan. 31, 2020 through Dec. 31, 2020. Loans are available up to $2 million, based on the borrower's economic injury and financial need.

Graphic courtesy of the Tyler SBDC

The Tyler SBDC is a partnership program between the US Small business administration. The state of Texas and TJC that provides support and assistance to growing local businesses.

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# Students make a PROMISE for this scholarship

**By: Marie Salazar**
Editor-In-Chief

College, for many, can be pricey. With that being said, TJC has partnered with local high schools to alleviate the pressure of tuition and costs for future Apaches by offering the TJC Promise Scholarship.

According to tjc.edu, "The TJC Promise Program is a six-year, comprehensive program that spans from 9th grade through the first two years of college." The Promise program starts when a student signs up for their freshman year in high school. Eligibility officially begins in their second semester. When a student signs up for the Promise program, they are, in essence, signing a pledge and promise to meet "set-up requirements based on academic achievement, persistence and community service."

The Promise requirements must be met throughout the duration of high school, which in turn, will need to be achieved throughout college, as well. By meeting the requirements, tuition and most fees are covered by the scholarship. Augusta Robinson, success coach for the TJC Promise Program, explains the main goal for students within the program.

"We want them to be successful; we know that they're great students throughout high school in order to meet our requirements. But once they get here, we want them to be successful here and beyond," Robinson said.

This opportunity leaves many students alleviated from the stress of having to pay tuition.

"So because of the TJC scholarship that I'm receiving, it's two years free tuition, which means that I'll basically be able to not have to worry about paying tuition, which is like a big-money chunk for me," incoming freshman Keren Vazquez said.

The TJC, Annual Cost Comparison chart, lists In-district tuition including room and board fees at $10,262. Out-of-district tuition, including room and board, is listed as $12,062. Comparatively, the minimum wage rate for the state of Texas is $7.25 per hour. After calculating the yearly income for an average college student making minimum wage working 40/hrs a week the annual income estimate is $15,080. According to the Georgetown report, "For the past 25 years, more than 70% of college students have been taking time from their studies to earn a paycheck."

With the TJC Promise Scholarship students can focus on paying other things. Vazquez discusses how with the scholarship she is able to focus on other financial needs. "I can start focusing on paying other things, such as rent or car insurance. And just focusing on things like books and small things that I need," Vazquez states.

However, the students getting this scholarship receive much more than the basic tuition payment agreement.

"As a success coach, I would say that the program impacts students really from a standpoint of we want students to not only be able to attend TJC and not have to worry as much about the costs related to them gaining their education, but also we want to help them with really a variety of things," Robinson said.

Some students have said this scholarship is a stress reliever, thus opening more opportunities for them.

"Being a student who has received the TJC promise, I can say that it has dramatically helped my financial situation while in college. Before knowing that I was going to be able to receive this scholarship, I was very concerned about how I was going to be able to pay for my college." Sophomore Ashlee Pate said.

Matthew Ramirez, director of Student Success and TJC Promise Program, said there are 5,281 students currently in the Promise Program and more than 500 are registered for TJC's fall semester. The first class of the TJC Promise, "benefited from approximately $300,000 in scholarship funding each semester," Ramirez said.

"With the TJC promise, a lot of the stress was relieved. My tuition was paid, and I was able to focus more on school and less on how I was going to pay for my school. Along with this, this meant that I didn't have to work a full-time job while in college and that gave me more time to focus on my studies," Pate said.

Another focus for this scholarship is student academic success. Success coaches hope to provide the students with extra benefits including, creating resumes, applying for job interviews, applying for transfer scholarships and more. The goal of the TJC Promise Program is that students remain successful throughout their academic career and maintain high standards. Robinson said success coaches work with students to, "continue to really press ahead and just build on success so they accomplish their goals."

The districts eligible for The Promise Scholarship are Chapel Hill, Grand Saline, Lindale, Tyler, Van and Winona. Mineola was also recently added according to Ramirez.

The following private schools are also eligible for the TJC Promise: All Saints Episcopal School, Bishop TK Gorman, The Brook Hill School, Christian Heritage School, Cumberland Academy High School, East Texas Christian Academy, (now closed), Good Shepherd School, Grace Community School, King's Academy Christian School and Tyler Classical Academy.

"The TJC promise has definitely been a great help for me and I couldn't have asked for anything better to help me in my financial situation throughout college," Pate said.

## STAY IN THE KNOW

**By: Asia Johnson**
Managing Editor

TJC has created a way for students to win free rewards and exclusive offers through the Apache Rewards App. This app allows students to stay up to date with campus events, rewarding them with points each time the user attends an event. Apache Rewards uses GeoLocation to identify a user is at the event, earning them points by going.

Obtaining a certain amount of points gives access to different free gifts and prizes like TJC merchandise, food offers and more.

The Apache Rewards app also has a point ranking system that compares all of the users' point earnage, allowing students to compete with other classmates and peers.

"This app is great. I'm able to keep track of Apache events and be rewarded while doing so," said freshman Londairion Calloway.

The Apache Rewards app is available to download through the Apple App Store, and is only compatible with Apple products.

# New Beginnings

## Resources for all students

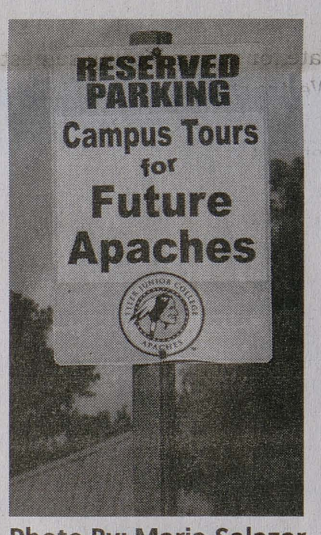



Photo By: Maria Salazar

**By: Asia Johnson**
Managing Editor

The introduction of a new atmosphere filled with fresh faces and different levels of curriculum can be overwhelming. A lot of new college students experience stress and anxiety due to the unknown.

Adjusting to this new scene may take time, but there are resources on campus that can help with this transition.

### Counseling Center

The Counseling Center provides up to six sessions per semester for students who may face challenges that could hinder academic progress. A counselor guides one on how to sustain a calm mood and obtain solutions to problems needed to be addressed. A wait period might be in place which would vary based on other students receiving counseling. If immediate assistance is needed, outside resources like Andrews Center, UT Health East Texas Behavioral Center, East Texas Crisis Center, Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255), and the Crisis/Depression Textline: – text "GO" to 741-741 are available. The Counseling Center is located in the Rogers Student Center, Room 302. Students can request an appointment at www.tjc.edu/counseling.

### TRiO Program

The TRiO Program offers a variety of free benefits such as color printing, personal success coaching, and priority registration to TJC students who may face barriers in education.

Success Coach Amber James said, "TRiO has two programs on the TJC campus: Student Support Services and Educational Opportunity Center. TRiO SSS annually serves 200 participants who are from low-income backgrounds, first- generation college students and/or participants with disabling conditions, with an annual budget of $274,262. TRiO EOC annually serves 1,000 participants who are from Cherokee, Smith, Van Zandt and Wood Counties in Texas who are 19 years or older, low-income, first generation college students, and/or participants with disabling conditions, with an annual budget of $272,751."

Students can go to www.tjc.edu/homepage/152/trio_program to apply.

### Disability Services

TJC's Disability Services gives students with a documented disability permission to record lectures, relocate classes to accessible locations and more. To request accommodations or an interpreter/notetaker, visit www.tjc.edu/ada . Students or guardians can get in touch with Director Margaret Rapp for more Disability Services information at 903-510-2878, or email mrap@tjc.edu.

### Success Coaching

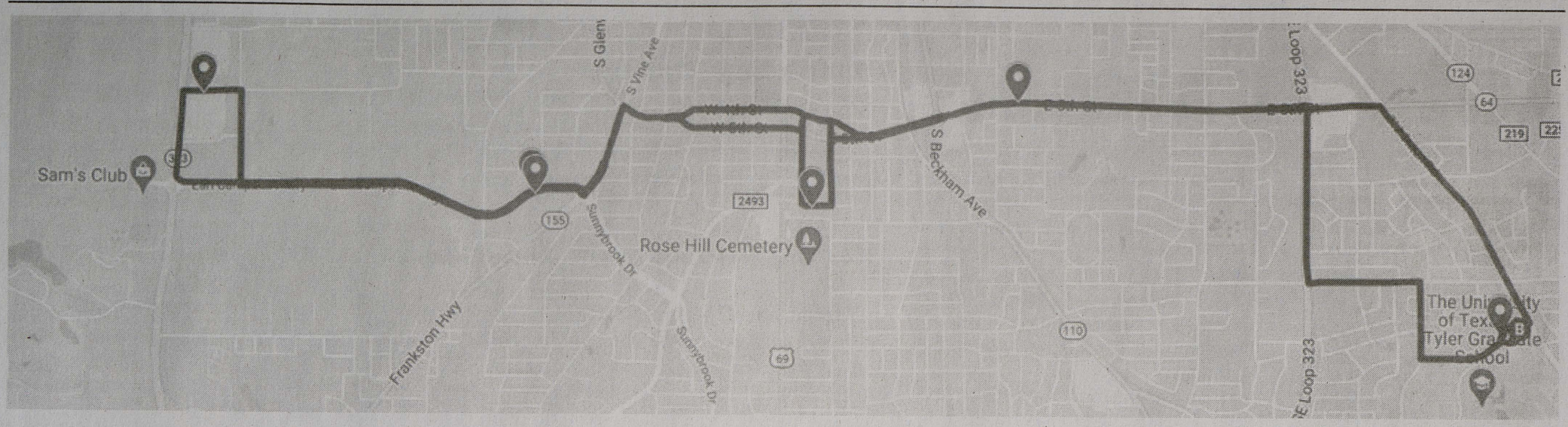
College can be a bit more challenging than high school when it comes to achieving scholarly goals. Academic Success coaching is free for all students.

Academic Success Coach Jaylin Jones said each student is different and that coaches are there to focus on students' specific goals.

"What's in the way of that goal, how can you achieve that goal. We'll set small goals to get to the big goal that we want," Jones said.

The program's goal is to illuminate personal targets, making sure students have one- on-one connections with staff members who can help. Students can sign up through https://www.tjc.edu/success .

For more about Academic Success Coaching, contact Jones at 903-510-2421, or email success@tjc.edu .




Graphic Courtesy of cityoftyler.org

This graphic shows the free shuttle bus route. The bus runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Need a Ride? Student - Oriented Bus Routes in Service

**By Chris Swann**
Design Editor

A Campus Express Shuttle route has been added to the Tyler Transit system and can be used by students for free. This comes after the conclusion of a route study conducted by the Tyler Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in July.

Along with changes to all current bus routes primarily aimed at shortening times, this route will make it easier for students who do not have access to a vehicle.

"The new route times and schedule are being tentatively targeted for mid-October and the changes will hopefully get students better connected to TJC West and other retail centers as well as more frequent service," said James Torres, Tyler Transit general manager.

The route will run twice a week beginning from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays. It will depart from the University of Tyler's Police Department and will make its final stop at Victory Village, with stops at TJC's main and west campus, and multiple stops in between.

This year, the only requirement is a valid TJC student or employee ID.

"In the past a sticker was required, but the new procedure is that the student ID just has to be current, and no sticker is required for the students to ride Tyler transit for free," Torres said.

By order of President Joe Biden, a face covering is required for all riders on public transportation to slow the spread of COVID-19. Social distancing is also recommended.

## Online and In-Person Tutoring in Need of More Student Tutors

**By Emily Niebuhr**
Student Life Editor

This semester is slowly coming back to normal with fewer COVID guidelines unlike the past two semesters. Students and teachers are ready to tackle the new semester with events, sports and performances back in-person. All around campus there are still safety measures for students, but tutoring services has eased some guidelines.

Director of Tutoring Services Danna Baggett said this update for the upcoming semester.

"We are still going to do in-person and online tutoring. We are still going to keep the plexiglass panels on the tables and encourage students to wear a mask if they want to, but if they don't then that's totally fine, so we will have some out in the center," Baggett said.

Potter Hall is going to have a new upgrade in their building when it comes to math.

"Now we are going to have a separate math lab over in Potter Hall, but it's only for certain math classes," Baggett said. Math 0324,1324,0232,1332,0342,1342, 0314 and 1314 classes are going to be in Room 204, Baggett said.

Tutoring services more than ever needs tutors.

"We don't have as many tutors right now for this upcoming semester as we have in the past, so what I'm going to have to do in the first weeks of school is to recruit heavily again," Baggett said. "I'm really going to do a big push for a lot of new tutors."

TJC students who are interested in learning about how to become a tutor can contact Baggett.

According to Baggett, "We really do need more tutors so you have taken at least some of TJC classes in the past, you have to have at least a 3.0 grade point average. Then I take a look at your transcript to see the classes you made A's in; those are the classes we get tutoring requests for, which include the core classes, writing papers and medical terminology so the tutors be ready for those students."

Baggett has some advice for new students who may be uncertain about utilizing the free tutoring services.

"All of our tutors are trained, which means they have a desire to help students. Everybody here is super friendly, and we really do want to see everybody succeed," Baggett said. "The environment is very welcoming and we want students to trust them too because they are in good hands to take that first step."

At TJC tutoring services provide additional help for studying.

"We have a lot of study skills here in the center, and we fully believe that if we can show students how to study, things are going to be better for them. A lot of times students have never been shown how to study. All our tutors can show them different study strategies that hopefully help make the material make more sense," Baggett said. "If students will just come in to trust us, let us have some of their time so we can show them those techniques."

Baggett said TJC's Tutoring Services may not have all classes.

"We try to help everybody that we can and we don't like to turn anybody away," Baggett said. "The way we try to do that is if we don't have a subject content tutor for a particular class. We try to encourage students to meet with Tiffany, who is our learning support specialist. She will sit down with students to tell them about studying skills and how to read your textbook more effectively."

## Upcoming Events

| Date | Time | Location | Event |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Aug. 23** | 9 a.m. | Quad | Pathfinders |
| **Aug. 24** | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Vaughn Library | Welcome & Waffles |
| **Aug 24** | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | RSO, 2nd floor | Blood Drive |
| **Aug. 25** | 7 p.m. | RPAC | Comedy Bingo Night |
| **Aug. 26** | 8:30 p.m. | Jenkins Lawn | Movie on the Lawn ft. Hidden Figures |
| **Aug. 27** | 12 - 2 p.m. | CSLI | Popcorn Happy Hour |
| **Aug. 30** | 6 - 8 p.m. | Intramural Field | Grill & Chill/ Kickball |
| **Aug. 31** | 6:30 p.m. | Outside Potter Hall | Painting at Potter |
| **Sept. 1** | 11 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. | Quad | Involvement Fair |
| **Sept. 2** | 11 a.m. | Quad | Apache Pride Day & Class Picture |
| **Sept. 3** | 12 - 2 p.m. | CSLI | Popcorn Happy Hour |
| **Sept. 4** | 5 - 7 p.m. | Rose Stadium | Gold Rush Tailgate & TJC vs. Kilgore |
| **Sept. 7** | 4 - 5 p.m. | Online, RSC, Jenkins | Student Senate Elections |
| **Sept 8.** | 4 - 7 p.m. | Intramural Field | Wet - N - Wild Wednesday |

Graphic by Asia Johnson

# Take Note

## Meet the new Director of Choral Music

Photo and Story by Jared Jones
Sports Editor

Robert Boren brings a decade of directing experience to TJC, with stops at Chapel Hill and Nacogdoches along the way. He earned his Associate of Arts Degree in music from Trinity Valley Community College and a Choral Conducting Master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University. He is an avid piano player and is also the Director of Traditional Music at Bullard First United Methodist Church.

**Q: What led you to TJC rather than other schools?**
A: This is a dream job for me! I've always wanted to teach choir, and community college is a unique place.

**Q: What makes you a perfect fit for TJC?**
A: I have community college experience. It was one of my favorite times in college. With a mix of my years of music experience it makes me perfect for the job.

**Q: What would the students be surprised to find out about you?**
A: That's a tough one. They would be surprised to find out that I struggled in college. It took me five years to get out of community college. So I know the struggle of jobs and ensemble, but I found a way to figure it out.

**Q: What about your teaching style sets you apart?**
A: I'm high energy, very passionate; I'm kind of a 'put-the-pedal-to-the metal' type of guy. We're going to work the entire time we're in class, and we're gonna get stuff done.

**Q: How do you measure success in an ensemble?**
A: Growth of the musicians as both people and their competency. That's the bar I use. And that doesn't mean we're always going to be perfect, but we're gonna always strive to get better.

**Q: What do you hope to accomplish at TJC?**
A: I hope to make this program explode. Be a strong pillar in both the music community and the community in general. I hope to make Tyler proud.

**Q: What is your teaching philosophy for both experienced and inexperienced students?**
A: I think anybody can sing and be taught to sing so anyone can get better. I don't believe in some people having it and some people not. Talent doesn't mean much to me; it's about work ethic.

**Q: If you could describe your life in one song title, what would you choose?**
A: "I Did It My Way." I'm kind of hard headed. That's been my life story. I had to try it my way first and kind of experiment from it. I'm also very stubborn.

**Q: If you could describe yourself as a chord what would you choose and why?**
A: You know ever since equal temperament every chord kind of sounds the same. But if I had to pick one I'd have to go B Sharp major. It's different, you don't really see it a lot, and it's spelt fully.

**Q: What culture do you want to bring to the TJC Choir?**
A: Culture is a big thing in any team or group, but I'm hoping we can create one built on hard work, where the results push you to be better every day. We all strive for the same goal to touch people's lives through music.

**Q: How do you handle ego within an ensemble?**
A: It can't exist. It just can't happen. It goes back to setting a standard of culture of we're all in this together. We can't have ego because it shows that you have a different goal and that's not what we're about. And you trying to shine over everyone else kind of messes with that goal.

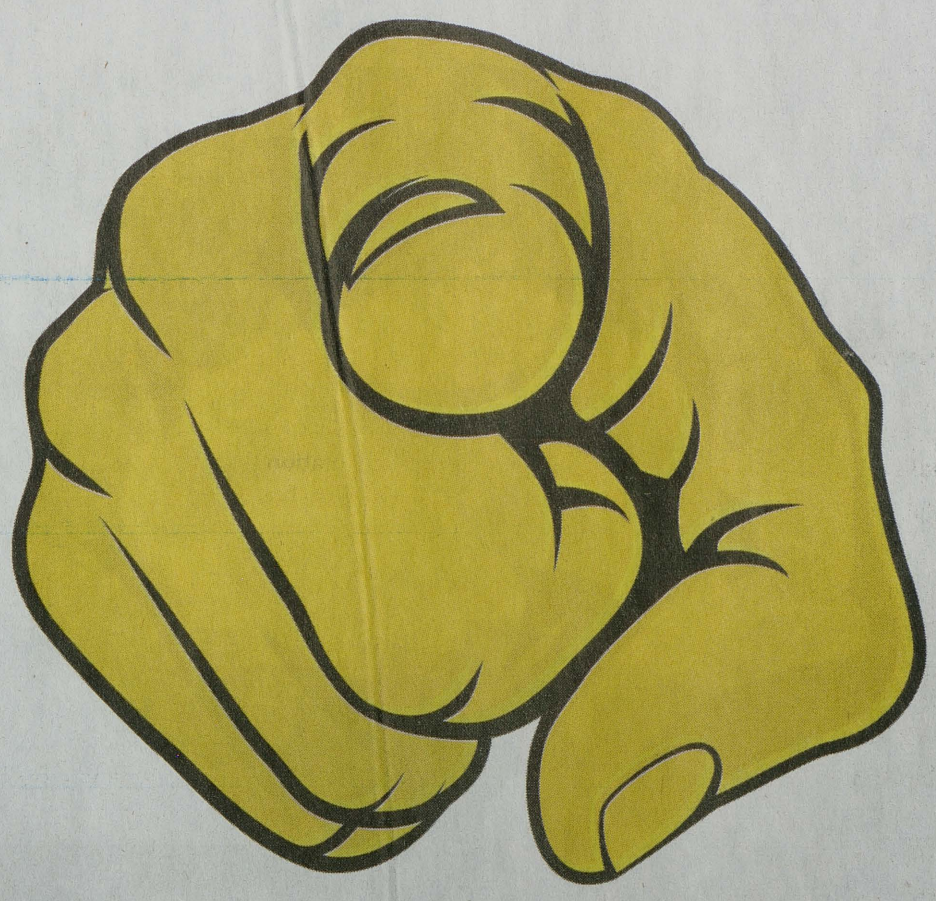
**Q: What would you say to someone who is hesitant in joining?**
A: I'd say come try it out! There's a place for everybody! It's something that's God given; everyone has a voice.

**Q: If you could perform anywhere in the world where would you go?**
A: I would say that the venue doesn't matter so much, but a really good audience is hard to find. So I guess I'd love to perform in front of a bunch of music nerds!

**Q: What rehearsal atmosphere do you want to create?**
A: I hope it's a rehearsal that's fast paced and informative but also one where we can work toward a common goal, have fun, and express ourselves. The whole point of music is to escape from the day to day. Welcoming, fun, but lots of hard work.

**Q: When a choir does not like the piece they are working on, how do you solve the problem?**
A: Usually the reason you don't like something is that you don't know about it. My job is to give them enough info about the piece and make it relate to them in some way. That way most students can find meaning in some way. I've found that pieces I've hated the most I loved the most because it was hard love them. And the ones I've loved were easy to love.

WE WANT YOU
TO GIVE
CAMPUS
TOURS!



INTEREST MEETINGS
**AUGUST 26TH** @ 5:30 PM
**SEPTEMBER 7TH** @ 5:00 PM
***TJC WELCOME CENTER***

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# Take Note

## Meet the new Director of Choral Music

Photo and Story by Jared Jones
Sports Editor

**Robert Boren brings a decade of directing experience to TJC, with stops at Chapel Hill and Nacogdoches along the way. He earned his Associate of Arts Degree in music from Trinity Valley Community College and a Choral Conducting Master's degree from Stephen F. Austin State University. He is an avid piano player and is also the Director of Traditional Music at Bullard First United Methodist Church.**

**Q: What led you to TJC rather than other schools?**
A: This is a dream job for me! I've always wanted to teach choir, and community college is a unique place.

**Q: What makes you a perfect fit for TJC?**
A: I have community college experience. It was one of my favorite times in college. With a mix of my years of music experience it makes me perfect for the job.

**Q: What would the students be surprised to find out about you?**
A: That's a tough one. They would be surprised to find out that I struggled in college. It took me five years to get out of community college. So I know the struggle of jobs and ensemble, but I found a way to figure it out.

**Q: What about your teaching style sets you apart?**
A: I'm high energy, very passionate; I'm kind of a 'put-the-pedal-to-the metal' type of guy. We're going to work the entire time we're in class, and we're gonna get stuff done.

**Q: How do you measure success in an ensemble?**
A: Growth of the musicians as both people and their competency. That's the bar I use. And that doesn't mean we're always going to be perfect, but we're gonna always strive to get better.

**Q: What do you hope to accomplish at TJC?**
A: I hope to make this program explode. Be a strong pillar in both the music community and the community in general. I hope to make Tyler proud.

**Q: What is your teaching philosophy for both experienced and inexperienced students?**
A: I think anybody can sing and be taught to sing so anyone can get better. I don't believe in some people having it and some people not. Talent doesn't mean much to me; it's about work ethic.

**Q: If you could describe your life in one song title, what would you choose?**
A: "I Did It My Way." I'm kind of hard headed. That's been my life story. I had to try it my way first and kind of experiment from it. I'm also very stubborn.

**Q: If you could describe yourself as a chord what would you choose and why?**
A: You know ever since equal temperament every chord kind of sounds the same. But if I had to pick one I'd have to go B Sharp major. It's different, you don't really see it a lot, and it's spelt fully.

**Q: What culture do you want to bring to the TJC Choir?**
A: Culture is a big thing in any team or group, but I'm hoping we can create one built on hard work, where the results push you to be better every day. We all strive for the same goal to touch people's lives through music.

**Q: How do you handle ego within an ensemble?**
A: It can't exist. It just can't happen. It goes back to setting a standard of culture of we're all in this together. We can't have ego because it shows that you have a different goal and that's not what we're about. And you trying to shine over everyone else kind of messes with that goal.

**Q: What would you say to someone who is hesitant in joining?**
A: I'd say come try it out! There's a place for everybody! It's something that's God given; everyone has a voice.

**Q: If you could perform anywhere in the world where would you go?**
A: I would say that the venue doesn't matter so much, but a really good audience is hard to find. So I guess I'd love to perform in front of a bunch of music nerds!

**Q: What rehearsal atmosphere do you want to create?**
A: I hope it's a rehearsal that's fast paced and informative but also one where we can work toward a common goal, have fun, and express ourselves. The whole point of music is to escape from the day to day. Welcoming, fun, but lots of hard work.

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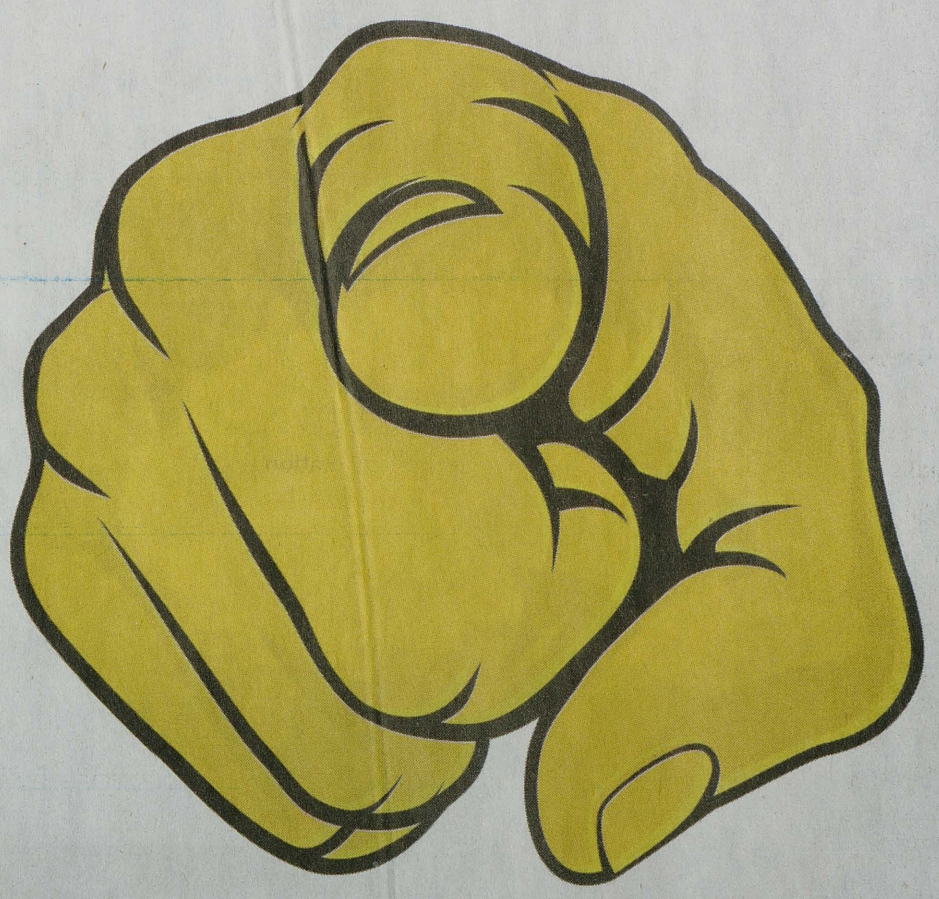

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# PENNY PINCHING

Photo By: Jared Jones

By Jared Jones
Sports Editor

**The term "broke college student" is something most identify with at some point in their college careers. But it does not take a lot of income to enjoy the benefits of the high-cost amenities, with little cost to you! Here are three ways students can save money without sacrificing quality.**

amazon

Image Property of Amazon

## Amazon Warehouse and Prime Student

Amazon has multiple ways to take advantage of their already discounted items. Amazon Warehouse and Amazon Prime Students are programs to save money. Amazon Warehouse offers a variety of products ranging from discounted Airpod Pros and even household items such as coffee makers and air fryers to spruce up any dorm. Amazon Prime for Students gives students the benefits of a monthly Prime membership, but on steroids. Here's a quick overview of everything that comes with a Prime Student Subscription:

- Free monthly Grubhub+ (Includes free delivery)
- The entire Prime media library
- Amazon Textbook Services (Up to 90% off of renting and purchasing textbooks)

## Streaming Services

Apps such as Hulu, Netflix and Paramount have become focal points of college life. Whether it's catching up on a popular new series, or binge watching an entire show knowing there are three papers due the next morning, these services have become essential. But why pay full price when there are better options available? Here are the best streaming deals to get the most bang for the buck:

- Disney+, Hulu, and ESPN+ all for $13.99 a month
- HBO Max free for all AT&T customers
- Hulu for Students - $1.99 a month
- Spotify Premium Students - Includes Spotify Premium, SHOTIME, and Hulu for $4.99 after a 1-month free trial ($22 in savings a month)

Image Property of Spotify, Hulu SHOTIME and Disney

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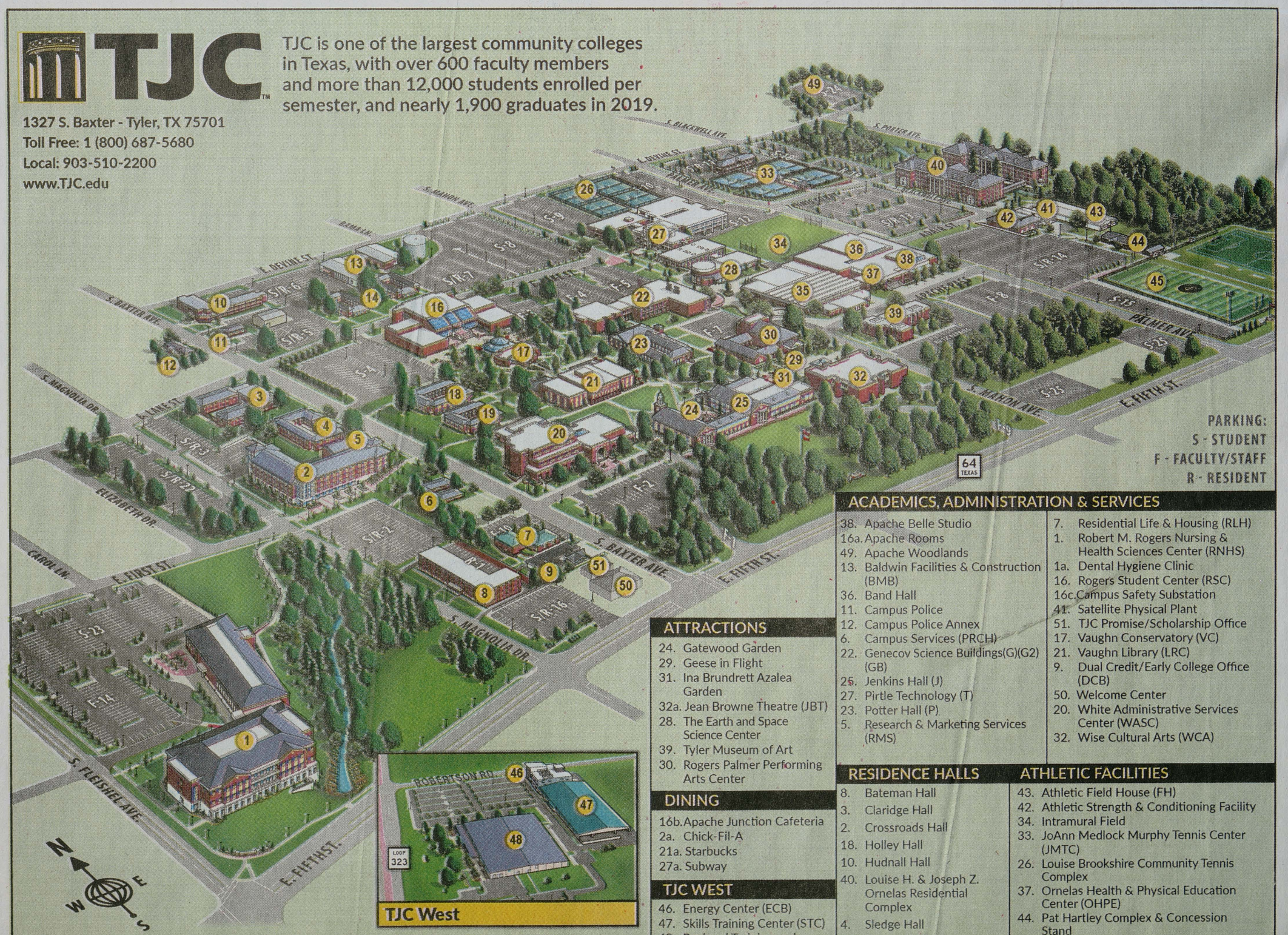
Image Property of UniDays

## Unidays

This is a hidden gem when it comes to students saving money. UniDays is a one-stop shop for unlocking exclusive deals, sales, and discounts for all your favorite apps and stores, simply for being a student. From Levis to Samsung and Adidas to American Eagle, find the latest styles and finds without breaking the bank.




### ACADEMICS, ADMINISTRATION & SERVICES

38. Apache Belle Studio
16a. Apache Rooms
49. Apache Woodlands
13. Baldwin Facilities & Construction (BMB)
36. Band Hall
11. Campus Police
12. Campus Police Annex
6. Campus Services (PRCH)
22. Genecov Science Buildings(G)(G2) (GB)
25. Jenkins Hall (J)
27. Pirtle Technology (T)
23. Potter Hall (P)
5. Research & Marketing Services (RMS)
7. Residential Life & Housing (RLH)
1. Robert M. Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center (RNHS)
1a. Dental Hygiene Clinic
16. Rogers Student Center (RSC)
16c. Campus Safety Substation
41. Satellite Physical Plant
51. TJC Promise/Scholarship Office
17. Vaughn Conservatory (VC)
21. Vaughn Library (LRC)
9. Dual Credit/Early College Office (DCB)
50. Welcome Center
20. White Administrative Services Center (WASC)
32. Wise Cultural Arts (WCA)

### ATTRACTIONS

24. Gatewood Garden
29. Geese in Flight
31. Ina Brundrett Azalea Garden
32a. Jean Browne Theatre (JBT)
28. The Earth and Space Science Center
39. Tyler Museum of Art
30. Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center

### DINING

16b. Apache Junction Cafeteria
2a. Chick-Fil-A
21a. Starbucks
27a. Subway

### TJC WEST

46. Energy Center (ECB)
47. Skills Training Center (STC)
48. Regional Training and Development Center (RTDC)

### RESIDENCE HALLS

8. Bateman Hall
3. Claridge Hall
2. Crossroads Hall
18. Holley Hall
10. Hudnall Hall
40. Louise H. & Joseph Z. Ornelas Residential Complex
4. Sledge Hall
19. Vaughn Hall
14. Wesley House

### ATHLETIC FACILITIES

43. Athletic Field House (FH)
42. Athletic Strength & Conditioning Facility
34. Intramural Field
33. JoAnn Medlock Murphy Tennis Center (JMTC)
26. Louise Brookshire Community Tennis Complex
37. Ornelas Health & Physical Education Center (OHPE)
44. Pat Hartley Complex & Concession Stand
45. Pat Hartley Field
35. Wagstaff Gymnasium (WG)

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